UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/796,671	03/09/2004	Keith Edward Foley	600.1263	3017

23280   7590   06/13/2007
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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2854	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
06/13/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

	Application No.	**Applicant(s)**
Office Action Summary	10/796,671	FOLEY ET AL.
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Daniel J. Colilla	2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>20 November 2006</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-9 and 11-20</u> is/are pending in the application.

　　4a) Of the above claim(s) <u>20</u> is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-9, 11-17 and 19</u> is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) <u>18</u> is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>09 March 2004</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

　　Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

　　Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

　　a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

　　　1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

　　　2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

　　　3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

　　* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
　　Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6)☐ Other: _____.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

PTOL-326 (Rev. 08-06)　　　　Office Action Summary　　　　Part of Paper No./Mail Date 20070515

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Applicant's arguments, in the appeal brief filed on , with respect to the

rejection(s) of claim(s) 1-9 and 11-19 under Final Rejection have been fully considered

and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn and prosecution of this

application has been reopened. A new ground(s) of rejection is made as outlined below.

2.   **Note:** It is noted in claim 2, that applicant recites "an identifier reader can be

connected to the controller." The use of the term "can be" only indicates a possibility and

is not considered to positively recite any structure in the claim. Thus the identifier reader

is not required by the claim.

Claim Objections

3.   Claims 2-3 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claims 2-3, "the device" has no proper antecedent basis in the claims.

Previously, applicant has recited a plurality of devices, but no specific single device has

been identified.

In claim 19, "the type identifier" has no antecedent basis in the claims. Claim 19

depends from claim 8. In order to expedite examination, this claim will be examined as if

it depended from claim 9 which *does* recited a type identifier.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4.   The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5.   Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, line 4, applicant recites, "detecting at a controller whether the device. . . to be attached to the machine is of the first type, the second type or the third type." It is not clear how a controller can detect what type device is to be attached *before* it is attached.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7.   Claims 1-9, 13-15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Platteter *et al.* (US 5,629,775).

With respect to claim 1, Platteter *et al.* discloses a method for detecting a type of one of a plurality of devices attached to a graphics machine 10 as shown in Figures 1-2 of Platteter *et al.* Figure 6 of Platteter *et al.* shows an embodiment in which a plurality of modular devices 52, 54 and 56 may be attached to the graphics machine. The devices 52,

54 and 56 may be any of three types including stacking, booklet making and binding

(Platteter *et al.*, col. 5, lines 17-27). It appears that Platteter *et al.* discloses detecting

whether the device attached to the machine is of the first type, second type or third type

in the section from col. 4, lines 1-6:

> In particular, the SBC PWBA 22 includes memory 22A in FIG. 4 storing data
> related to the operation and timing of the associated feeder or finisher and ·
> logic and circuitry 22B (either hardware or software in ROM) for interrogating
> each of the device PWBA's for the operational and timing data of the device
> PWBA.

However, if this is not the section that discloses detecting the type of device, this step

must at least be inherent in the system for the graphics machine 10 must correctly

recognize the device in order to properly make use of it. Platteter *et al.* discloses a

controller 22 for communicating with the devices 52, 54 and 56. In col. 5, lines 61-67,

Platteter *et al.* discloses that the printer performs an autoconfiguration of each of the

devices by communicating with each device. When powered up, the printer controller 22

will send a message to each device requesting that it reconfigure a node; thus the

controller 22 is capable of preadjusting the devices as a function of the detection

(Platteter *et al.*, col. 6, lines 18-26).

> With respect to claim 2, while Platteter *et al.* discloses that:
>
> "each device PWBA (such as PWBA 24 and PWBA 28) includes
> memory 24A and 28A storing data related to the operation and timing of the
> related feeder or finisher device 24 or 28 and logic and circuitry 24B and 28B
> for responding to the interrogation from SCB22 for the operational and timing
> data of the associated device such as feeder 24 or finisher 28." (col., 4, lines 10-16).

In other words, the PWBA in each device identifies the type of device that it is to the

controller 22.

With respect to claim 3, the message sent by the controller 22 is a signal sent to the devices 52, 54 and 56."

With respect to claim 4, as mentioned above Platteter *et al.* discloses that several different modules can be attached to the printing machine 10. These modules can include devices for stacking, mail box sorting, booklet making, binding, inserting, folding, etc. (Platteter *et al.*, col. 5, lines 17-27). In col. 2, lines 5-10, Platteter *et al.* discloses that the finishing and feeder devices maybe attached in any configuration that the operator decides is appropriate for his need.

With respect to claim 5, as mentioned above with respect to claim 1, the module devices can include a binder thus the system can be considered a binding line. As disclosed in col. 2, lines 64-66, the attached devices can be feeding devices.

With respect to claim 6, the machine disclosed by Platteter *et al.* is a printing machine that can be used for printing books or booklets (col. 3, lines 2-17), thus, it can be considered a printing press and the devices attached can be considered printing press components.

With respect to claim 7, Platteter *et al.* discloses that the machine runs a self-test check upon each powering on of the machine to determine which devices are connected to the machine (col. 6, lines 18-33 and col. 6, lines 1-8).

With respect to claim 8, Platteter *et al.* discloses the claimed graphics machine including a controller 22, a first device 52 that is categorizable as one of at least a first type, a second type and a third type (stacking, booklet making and binding; Platteter *et al.*, col. 5, lines 17-27). It appears that Platteter *et al.* discloses detecting whether the

device attached to the machine is of the first type, second type or third type in the section

from col. 4, lines 1-6:

> In particular, the SBC PWBA 22 includes memory 22A in FIG. 4 storing data
> related to the operation and timing of the associated feeder or finisher and
> logic and circuitry 22B (either hardware or software in ROM) for interrogating
> each of the device PWBA's for the operational and timing data of the device
> PWBA.

However, if this is not the section that discloses detecting the type of device, this step

must at least be inherent in the system for the graphics machine 10 must correctly

recognize the device in order to properly make use of it. Platteter *et al.* discloses a

controller 22 for communicating with the devices 52, 54 and 56. The PWBA 22 of the

devices includes a memory 22A which is accessible by the controller 22 when the

controller 22 interrogates the PWBA's. This memory 22 stores information regarding the

first type, second type and third type. When powered up, the controller 22 sends a

message to each device requesting that it reconfigure a node; thus the controller 22

automatically adjusts the devices as a function of the information detected in the memory

(Platteter *et al.*, col. 6, lines 18-26).

> With respect to claim 9, while Platteter *et al.* discloses that:
>
> "each device PWBA (such as PWBA 24 and PWBA 28) includes
> memory 24A and 28A storing data related to the operation and timing of the
> related feeder or finisher device 24 or 28 and logic and circuitry 24B and 28B
> for responding to the interrogation from SCB22 for the operational and timing
> data of the associated device such as feeder 24 or finisher 28." (col., 4, lines 10-16).

In other words, the PWBA in each device is a type identifier that identifies the type of

device to the controller 22 (a portion of which is the identifier reader).

With respect to claim 13, the graphics machine 10 includes a second device 54, 56

or module #N connected to the controller as shown in Figure 6 of Platteter *et al.* The

apparatus shown in Figure 6 includes the modules stacking, booklet making and binding

thus a second module must be at least one of these types (Platteter *et al.*, col. 5, lines 17-

27).

With respect to claim 14, as mentioned in col. 5, lines 17-27, the devices

(including the first device 52) are modular.

With respect to claim 15, Platteter *et al.* disclose that the controller receives inputs

from the devices regarding location during autoconfiguration (col. 5, lines 52-60).

With respect to claim 19, the type identifier includes components such as memory

24A and 28A for storing data and circuitry 24B and 28B which operate using digital

signals.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

9.   Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Platteter *et al.*

(US 5,629,775), as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Okano (US

2001/0011219).

Platteter *et al.* discloses the claimed graphics machine except that he does not

specify if the memory 22A is a table or not. However, Okano teaches a controller 25

including a memory 25A that is a data table for storing information about different types

of devices as mentioned in paragraph [0065] of Okano. It would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Okano with the graphics machine disclosed by Platteter *et al.* for the advantage of logically arranged and therefore easily accessible information stored in a memory.

10. Claims 12, 16 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Platteter *et al.* (US 5,629,775) in view of Goers *et al.* (US 2002/0096942).

With respect to claim 12, Platteter *et al.* discloses the claimed machine except that it is not known to the examiner how the devices connect to the machine. However, Goers *et al.* teaches a device 2 that connects to a machine 1 using an electrical plug as taught in paragraph [0026] of Goers *et al.* It would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Goers *et al.* with the machine disclosed by Platteter *et al.* for the advantage of a convenient way of easily attaching and detaching the devices from the machine.

With respect to claim 16, Platteter *et al.* discloses the claimed invention except for the type identifier being a plug. However, Goers *et al. et al.* teaches a device 2 that connects to a machine 1 using an electrical plug as taught in paragraph [0026] of Goers *et al.* The plug has an input power pin 264 (Goers *et al.*, paragraph [0030]) and another pin 31' for the identification of the device 2 (Goers *et al.*, paragraph [0039]); pin 264 and pin 31' being connected by a trigger circuit 27 as shown in Figure 1 of Goers et al. It would have been obvious to replace the identification system of Platteter *et al.* with the identifier plug taught Goers *et al.* for the advantage of providing a bus access unit which is suitable for managing electrical interfaces of different types for electrically and

functionally different plug-in modules while maintaining the free choice of slots in such a

way that disruptions to units already in operation and damage to the unit to be inserted

are avoided (Goers et al, paragraph [0009]).

With respect to claim 17, the input power pin 264 and the other pin 31' are

separated by a resistor 26 as shown in Figure 1 of Goers *et al.*

Allowable Subject Matter

11.   Claim 18 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would

be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base

claim and any intervening claims.

12.   The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject

matter:

Claim 18 has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter primarily for

the two other pins, the type being determined by the presence or absence of power at the

other pins.

Response to Arguments

13.   Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are
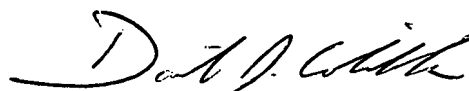
moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

14.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel J. Colilla whose telephone number is 571-272-2157. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00.

       If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached at 571-272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

       Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

June 9, 2007

Daniel J. Colilla
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2854